

Application Number 10/571876
Response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of original claim 4; accordingly, claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 3 and 6-10 also have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagahata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,531) in view of Ohkubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,259,564) and Tsukamoto et al. (JP H05-212888). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all limitations of allowable claim 4. Claims 2 and 5 refer to amended claim 1 as supported by Figs. 6 and 7 and the specification at page 6, lines 18-22, page 11, lines 13-15, and page 12, lines 1-2; and page 10, lines 8-19, respectively. Claims 3 and 6-10 have been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.



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DPM/my/ad

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